

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1619

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Nine  
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An Act relative to creation of the office of Senior Justice in the Appeals Court and the Trial Court..

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 32 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out sections  
2   65F and 65G, both as most recently amended by section 552 of chapter 133 of the acts of 1992,  
3   and inserting in place thereof the following two sections:

4           Section 65F. A chief justice, associate justice or judge of the appeals court or of the trial  
5   court, who is retired from his office may notify the chief justice of the appeals court or the chief  
6   justice for administration and management of the trial court, whichever is appropriate, in writing,  
7   within eighteen months from the date of his retirement, that he wishes his name to be placed  
8   upon the list of senior justices of the appeals court or senior justices of the trial court. The chief  
9   justice of the appeals court shall place the name of any such chief justice or associate justice on  
10   the list of senior justices of the appeals court, and the chief justice for administration and  
11   management shall place the name of any judge of the trial court on the list of senior justices of  
12   the trial court.

13 Any retired chief justice; associate justice, or judge who elects to place his name upon the  
14 list of senior justices or any surviving spouse of such chief justice, associate justice, or judge  
15 shall be entitled to the same pension and all other benefits which he or his surviving spouse  
16 would have been entitled to receive if he had retired without his name having been placed on  
17 such list, notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, and a vacancy shall exist in the judicial  
18 office previously occupied by such retired chief justice, associate justice or judge prior to such  
19 retirement.

20 A retired chief justice, associate justice or judge of the appeals court or of the trial court  
21 whose name has been placed on the list of senior justices shall be eligible to perform judicial  
22 duties only as provided in section sixteen of chapter two hundred eleven A or section fourteen of  
23 chapter two hundred eleven B of the general laws, as appropriate.

24 If any such senior justice no longer wishes to be eligible to perform judicial duties  
25 pursuant to section sixteen of said chapter two hundred eleven A, or pursuant to section fourteen  
26 of said chapter two hundred eleven B, he may at any time after having his name placed upon said  
27 list resign his office.

28 A retired chief justice, associate justice or judge of the appeals court, or the trial court,  
29 while eligible to perform judicial duties, shall not engage in the practice of law directly or  
30 indirectly, and shall not hold any office which is incompatible with holding the office of justice  
31 or judge of the court of which he is on the senior justice list under the provisions of Article II of  
32 Chapter VI of Part the Second of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Article VIII of the  
33 Amendments thereto.

Section 65FF. In the event that a justice or judge designated a senior justice has not received a pension or retirement allowance pursuant to section sixty-five A or sixty-five D of this chapter, after attaining seventy years of age, because said justice or judge has not served continuously for at least ten years, said senior justice may receive a total annual per diem compensation equivalent to the current salary of an associate justice or judge of the court said justice or judge was retired from pursuant to Article 1 of Part 2, Chapter 3 of the Constitution. Such a senior justice shall be entitled to accrue and continue to contribute to his pension eligibility, pursuant to paragraph (b) of section sixty-five D of this chapter, until he is eligible to receive a pension or retirement allowance pursuant to said section sixty-five D. During the period of time a senior justice is subject to the provisions of said paragraph (b) of said section sixty-five

D, he shall be entitled to earn the same vacation and sick leave benefits of a associate justice of the court from when he retired. When such a senior justice achieves a minimum of ten years of continuous service and is eligible for a pension or retirement allowance he shall be subject to the provisions of section 65F of this chapter.

SECTION 2. Chapter 211A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out section 16, and inserting in place thereof the following sections:

SECTION 16. A retired chief justice or associate justice of the appeals court, shall become eligible to be a senior justice upon the date of such retirement and for eighteen months thereafter. Any such justice shall notify the chief justice of the Appeals Court not less than four months before assuming senior justice status. A senior justice shall be designated and assigned by the chief justice of the appeals court to perform, during his term of eligibility, such of the

56 duties of the office of associate justice of the appeals court as may be requested of him and  
57 which he is willing to undertake. Such senior justice may also be designated and assigned by the  
58 chief justice of the appeals court to perform, during his term of eligibility, such of the duties of  
59 judge of any lower court as may be requested of him and which he is willing to undertake  
60 provided that no single assignment shall be for a term of longer than ninety days.

61 In performing the services requested of him, a senior justice shall exercise all judicial  
62 power and authority pertaining to the office in which he acts, in respect of matters to which he is  
63 designed to act, and the fact of such service shall be stated on the records of the court, but need  
64 not be separately stated in the record or docket of any particular cause or proceeding. Service  
65 under the provisions of this section shall not be counted in determining the number of offices  
66 authorized or required for any court, on which a senior justice serves, by any applicable statute.

67 A senior justice so serving shall receive compensation on a per diem basis. The per diem  
68 rate shall be determined by dividing one two hundred twentieths (220) into the then current  
69 salary of such justice of the appeals court. Said per diem rate shall be paid to a senior justice for  
70 each day he shall be assigned to the court and such compensation shall be in addition to any  
71 other compensation or benefits the justice shall be entitled to as a retiree under the provisions of  
72 section

73 sixty-five A or section sixty-five D of chapter thirty two of the general laws.

74 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the total annual per diem  
75 compensation paid to a senior justice, when combined with his annual pension or retirement  
76 allowance, shall not exceed one hundred and ten percent of the then current salary of a justice of  
77 the appeals court. The per diem compensation paid to a senior justice shall be subject to taxation

pursuant to regular federal and state taxation. The per diem rate of compensation shall be paid from judiciary appropriated funds and at the same intervals as paid to a regular justice of the court.

Such senior justice shall be entitled to all other benefits of a regular incumbent of the appeals court and shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred while performing such services at any place other than his place of residence. While so serving he shall be entitled to receive such staff support, clerical assistance and facilities as are customarily available to judges of the court on which he serves.

A senior justice shall be eligible for designation and assignment by the chief justice of the appeals court until he attains the age of seventy six years. Thereafter senior justices may apply to a committee of appeals court justices, designated by the chief justice, for consideration of continued service as a senior justice beyond age seventy six years. Said committee after making its determination, shall recommend to the chief justice which senior justices are willing, and able, to be designated and assigned by said chief justice. Continued eligibility for service shall be determined each year after a senior justice attains the age of seventy six years.

Section 16A. During the temporary disability of the chief justice or an associate justice of the appeals court, a majority of the justices of the supreme judicial court may designate a justice appointed to the trial court to perform such duties of the office of associate justice of the appeals court as may be necessary to ensure the speedy dispatch of judicial business; provided, however, that any such trial court justice so appointed shall receive a salary commensurate with the salary of the justice or chief justice of the appeals court who is so disabled; and, provided further, that nothing contained herein shall be construed to limit the right of such disabled justice

to receive his full salary, health or disability benefits or retirement benefits if otherwise provided by law.

SECTION 3. Chapter 211B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out section 14 and inserting in place thereof the following section:

Section 14. A retired justice of the trial court shall become eligible to be a senior justice upon the date of such retirement and for eighteen months thereafter. Any such justice shall notify the chief justice for administration and management not less than four months before assuming senior justice status. A senior justice shall be designated and assigned by the chief justice for administration and management to perform, during his term of eligibility, such of the duties of the office of a justice of the trial court as may be requested of him and which he is willing to undertake provided that no single assignment shall be for a term of longer than ninety days.

In performing the services requested of him, a senior justice shall exercise all judicial power and authority pertaining to the office in which he acts, in respect of matters to which he is designated to act, and the fact of such service shall be stated on the records of the court, but need not be separately stated in the record or docket of any particular cause or proceeding. Service under the provisions of this section shall not be counted in determining the number of offices authorized or required for any court, on which a senior justice serves, by any applicable statute.

A senior justice so serving shall receive compensation on a per diem basis. The per diem rate shall be determined by dividing one two hundred twentieths (220) into the then current salary of a justice of the trial court. Said per diem rate shall be paid to a senior justice for each day he shall sit in the trial court and such compensation shall be in addition to any other

122 compensation or benefits the justice shall be entitled to as a retiree under the provisions of  
123 section sixty-five A or section sixty-five D of chapter thirty two of the general laws.  
124 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the total annual per diem  
125 compensation paid to a senior justice, when combined with his annual pension or retirement  
126 allowance, shall not exceed one hundred and ten percent of the then current salary of a justice of  
127 the trial court. The per diem compensation paid to a senior justice shall be subject to taxation  
128 pursuant to regular federal and state taxation. The per diem rate of compensation shall be paid  
129 from Judiciary appropriated funds and at the same intervals as paid to a regular justice of the trial  
130 court.

131         Such senior justice shall be entitled to all other benefits of a regular incumbent of the trial  
132 court and shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred while performing such services at any place  
133 other than his place of residence. While so serving he shall be entitled to receive such staff  
134 support, clerical assistance and facilities as are customarily available to judges of the court on  
135 which he serves.

136         A senior justice shall be eligible for designation and assignment by the chief justice for  
137 administration and management until he attains the age of seventy six years. Thereafter senior  
138 justices may apply to a committee of trial court justices, designated by said chief justice, for  
139 consideration of continued service as a senior justice beyond age seventy six years. Said  
140 committee after making its determination, shall recommend to the chief justice which senior  
141 justices are willing, and able, to be designated and assigned by said chief justice. Continued  
142 eligibility for service shall be determined each year after a senior justice attains the age of  
143 seventy six years.

